

CROP HIGHLIGHTS

ACREAGE: Indiana's five major field crops totaled 12.4 million acres during 2004, up 2 percent from the 2003 planted acreage. Corn acreage for harvest was 3 percent above a year ago, while soybean acreage for harvest also rose 3 percent. Winter wheat harvested acreage was up 2 percent from a year ago and all hay harvested acreage increased 2 percent above the 2003 level. Oat acreage for harvest decreased 20 percent from the 2003 level. Other crops showing harvested acreage changes were processing tomatoes up 1 percent, snap beans for processing down 8 percent, potatoes down 14 percent, popcorn up 4 percent, and spearmint fell 11 percent. In addition, tomatoes for fresh market harvested acreage increased 6 percent, cantaloupes fell 4 percent, fresh market sweet corn increased 6 percent, and watermelons increased 3 percent.

YIELDS: Planting of corn and soybean fields started early during the 2004 season. Many fields were tilled, fertilizer spread and nitrogen applied during the previous fall which helped save time during the spring. Farmers took advantage of the early window of opportunity to get corn and soybeans planted, especially in the central and northern regions of the state. Frequent showers slowed field activities in the southern areas of the state. By May 2nd, 70 percent of the intended corn acreage was planted and 23 percent of the soybean acreage was planted. Corn planting was on a new record pace and field conditions were in excellent condition in most areas of the state. As of May 23rd, 96 percent of the corn acreage was planted and 78 percent of the soybean acreage was planted. Heavy flooding occurred in some areas, causing lost acreage and some drowned out spots, especially along river bottoms in the south. Corn and soybean plants emerged early and growing conditions were ideal, aided by timely precipitation and favorable weather during pollination and setting of pods on soybean plants. By August 1st, farmers were optimistic that excellent corn and soybean yields were possible. Crops dried down and rapidly advanced toward maturity. Harvest was

underway during early September in some early maturing fields in the southwest. Corn and soybean harvest was in full swing by late September. By mid-November, corn harvest was 93 percent complete and 97 percent of the soybean acreage was harvested. Excellent corn and soybean yields were being reported, with most counties setting a new record high for 2004. The average yield for corn in 2004 was a record high 168 bushels per acre, 22 bushels more per acre than the 2003 average. The average yield for soybeans was 52 bushels per acre, up 14 bushels from the previous year. Winter wheat had an average record yield of 62 bushels per acre, down 7 bushels from last year. Oat yield averaged 75 bushels per acre, 5 bushels higher than the 70 bushels per acre set in 2003 and 5 bushels per acre below the record high yield of 80 bushels per acre established in 2001. All hay yield, at 3.49, was 0.24 tons above the 3.25 tons per acre in 2003. The average yield for popcorn was 4,550 pounds per acre, 1,250 pounds per acre more than the 2003 average.

PRODUCTION: Corn produced during 2004 was 929.0 million bushels, 18 percent above the 2003 level of 786.9 million bushels. Soybean production was 287.0 million bushels, 41 percent above the 204.1 million bushels produced a year earlier. Winter wheat production, at 27.3 million bushels, was 8 percent less than the 29.7 million bushels harvested in 2003. Tobacco production increased 5 percent, to 8.6 million pounds. Popcorn production totaled 382.2 million pounds, 43 percent above the 2003 level. Oat production of 900 thousand bushels was 14 percent below the 1.1 million bushels produced in 2003. All hay production, at 2.3 million tons, rose 9 percent while potato production also increased 21 percent. Peppermint production increased 20 percent, while spearmint production fell 16 percent. Apple production increased 18 percent to 60.0 million pounds. Peach production, at 2.4 million pounds, was 29 percent less than the 3.4 million pounds harvested during 2003. Blueberry production totaled 3.1 million pounds, a 63 percent increase from the previous year.